



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS

- WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival celebrates the annual harvest of Georgia's own sweet Vidalia Onion and attracts more than 50,000 visitors from around the world to South Georgia each year; and
- WHEREAS: Providing a significant economic boost for the South Georgia region, the Vidalia Onion Festival has grown tremendously since its humble beginning in 1977, when the Vidalia Women's Club and the Vidalia Lions Club organized an arts and crafts festival as a fundraiser to promote the sweet Vidalia Onion; and
- WHEREAS: The Vidalia Onion Festival operates on local contributions, event sponsorship and limited revenue-generating activities and, in turn, donates funds back to the community throughout the year; and
- WHEREAS: The 40th annual Vidalia Onion Festival includes the March Down Meadows Children's Parade and Movie Under the Stars on Thursday, April 27, a street dance and fireworks in Downtown Vidalia with the Crystal Clear Band on Friday, April 28, an air show with a World War II tribute and a concert featuring Blackberry Smoke on Saturday, April 29; and
- WHEREAS: With the aroma of freshly cooked Vidalia Onions, the celebration of the sweet Vidalia Onion harvest is shared with people from around the world, beginning with the crowning of the 2017 Miss Vidalia Onion, the Onion Run, onion cooking events, arts and crafts, live entertainment, a carnival, and recognition of Vidalia Onion lore; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim April 27-30, 2017, as VIDALIA ONION FESTIVAL DAYS in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.



*Nathan Deal*

GOVERNOR

ATTEST

*Chris W. Riley*

CHIEF OF STAFF